NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORP. (SARATOGA SPRINGS PLANT)

NEW YORK

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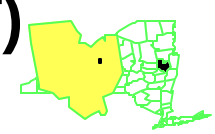

EPA REGION 2

CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 22

Saratoga County

Saratoga Springs

Site Description

The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation site (Saratoga Springs Plant) includes a 7-acre parcel owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the NMPC Property), the former Skating Rink Property (a 2.3-acre property formerly owned by the City of Saratoga Springs) and an approximately 1-mile stretch of Spring Run Creek. The Site is located in the City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County, New York.

The 7-acre NMPC Property was used for coal gas manufacturing by the Saratoga Gas Light Company, a predecessor company of Niagara Mohawk, and then by various other companies from 1853 until the late 1940s. By-product materials containing hazardous substances were disposed of at various locations at the NMPC Property, and the Property's subsurface contains numerous coal tar waste deposits from these operations. Niagara Mohawk has operated the site since 1950 to 1999 as a district service center and headquarters for its electric line, natural gas, vehicle and equipment repair, maintenance, storage facilities, and tree trimming crews servicing the Saratoga District. The site is located in a primarily residential area of Saratoga Springs. Approximately 10,000 people live within a 1-mile radius of the site and receive their drinking water supply from the City of Saratoga Springs. Loughberry Lake is the drinking water supply reservoir for the City of Saratoga Springs and is located 2,000 feet upgradient of the site. Approximately 1,300 people in trailer parks and other residents nearby obtain their drinking water from private wells located within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility:

The Site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party (PRP) actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/88

Final Date: 02/21/90

Threats and Contaminants

The groundwater and soil on the NMPC Property are contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with coal tars. Stream sediments contained PAHs and low levels of the pesticide DDT. Had site-related contaminants migrated into sources of drinking water, area residents could have been exposed to contaminants when drinking or using that water. The results of the risk assessment conducted by EPA show that the contaminants that were located in three sediment areas of a downgradient stream did not pose a risk to human health, but might have posed a risk to ecological receptors.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: In 1989, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) began an investigation into the nature and extent of site contamination. The remedial investigation (RI) was completed in September 1992. Based on the results of this investigation, cleanup technologies were evaluated and it was determined that supplemental field work needed to be performed in order to refine the various cleanup options that were being analyzed. In June 1995, EPA released to the public a Proposed Plan that outlined EPA's preferred remedy for the site. Following a public meeting and public comment period, the final remedy for this Site was documented by EPA in a September 29, 1995 Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy entailed excavation and off-site disposal of highly contaminated soil and source areas containing coal tar waste found on the NMPC property; installation of subsurface barriers and drains, with DNAPL and groundwater collection sumps to contain contaminated groundwater on the NMPC property; installation of an asphalt cap to minimize infiltration of rainfall and snow melt through the contaminated soils; and institutional controls and long-term monitoring. In addition, the remedy required excavation of contaminated soils in the vicinity of the former municipal skating rink; removal of contaminated sediments in a nearby stream; and elimination of contaminant transport via an underground storm sewer to off-site areas. The selected remedy addresses the principal threats posed by the site and allows for continued industrial use of the NMPC property in the future.

Site Facts: The EPA and NMPC signed a Consent Order in 1989 that specified NMPC's responsibilities for performing an investigation of site contamination. A Consent Decree requiring NMPC to design and implement the remedy was approved by the court on May 15, 1997. The remedial design document was approved in September 2000. A public information meeting was held on July 19, 2001, to discuss construction activities. Construction of the remedy began in May 2001. In December 2001, EPA issued an Explanation of Significance Differences (ESD) describing changes to several components of the remedy selected in the 1995 ROD. These changes modified the cleanup approach of the skating rink property and the underground storm sewer, and preserved the historic Round House, which was originally slated for demolition in order to remove contaminated soil beneath it.

Cleanup Progress

Construction of all the components of the remedy specified in the ROD have been completed. Approximately 68,400 tons of contaminated soil have been excavated from the NMPC and the skating rink properties and transported off-site to a thermal treatment facility. Also, approximately 16,700 tons of contaminated sediments from Spring Run Creek have been excavated and transported off-site for thermal treatment and 1,700 tons of nonhazardous construction debris were transported to an approved RCRA Subtitle D landfill. The excavated areas have been backfilled with clean soil and sediments, as appropriate. A temporary water treatment facility was constructed in August 2001 and treated over 7 million gallons of water. This facility was replaced by a permanent groundwater treatment facility in June 2002. A newly identified area of subsurface soil contamination adjacent to the NMPC property was discovered in December 2002 . NMPC is currently evaluating remedial alternatives for this area.

There were some changes that occurred during construction which did not alter the remedial objectives for this Site. One change involved the final restoration of some areas adjacent to Spring Run Creek. The City of Saratoga Springs (City) and the Saratoga Springs Open Space Project notified EPA that they were interested in utilizing this area for a bike path and suggested changes in the final restoration plan. EPA and NMPC agreed to these changes with the understanding that the City would be responsible for any additional work in this area.

Site Repository

Saratoga Springs Public Library, Reference Section, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.